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Piotr Zelenay of Materials Synthesis and Integrated Devices (MPA-11) received the honorary title of Professor in Chemistry from Poland's President **Bronisław Komorowski** during a June 23 ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw. The highly respected title of "Professor," conferred by the president upon a motion of the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles, may be awarded to those who have earned a degree of habilitated doctor (a degree above a PhD), have achievements exceeding those required for the habilitated doctor degree and who have an excellent record in education. The ceremony involved 47 nominees from all academic disciplines, including sciences, humanities, arts and medicine. Zelenay was the only nominee receiving the title in chemistry and the sole nominee from outside Poland.

The ceremony and reception took place in the Column Hall, the largest hall of the Presidential Palace. The Hall is known for numerous historical events, such as the establishment of the Warsaw Pact in 1955 and the Round Table Agreement between the communist government of Poland and democratic opposition in the winter-spring of 1989, which led to the secession of power by the communist government and initiated the downfall of communism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Zelenay's achievements

Zelenay earned doctoral and doctor of science ("habilitation") degrees in chemistry from the University of Warsaw, where he later served as a professor. He joined LANL as a technical staff member in 1997. He is world-recognized in the area of nonprecious metal electrocatalysts intended to replace platinum in polymer electrolyte fuel cells for use in electric vehicles. Zelenay has led the use of nonprecious transition metal catalysts in a composite form, taking advantage of the latest developments in nanostructured materials engineering. Since becoming a project leader for the Laboratory's Fuel Cell Program in 2000, Zelenay has led numerous research projects totaling nearly \$60 M in research funding.

Zelenay is a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society and has published more than 150 articles in scientific journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, *Chemical Reviews*, and *Accounts of Chemical Research*. He has 19 patents and patent applications in polymer

electrolyte fuel cells. His honors include a Laboratory Fellows Prize for Outstanding Research, Electrochemical Society Energy Technology Division Research Award, DOE Hydrogen Program R&D Award, and DOE “Energy 100” and “Energy @23” awards for fuel cells for transportation. He is an affiliate professor at the University of Warsaw, an editorial board member of *Electrocatalysis* and a steering committee board member for the International Academy of Electrochemical Energy Science.

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